

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Professor Rebecca J. Cook 1997-98

FACULTY OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Prepared with the help of Valerie Oosterveld

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September 8: Introduction to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights
International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights ("ICCPR")
Henkin, "Introduction to the International Bill of Human Rights", in Henkin (ed.), <u>The International Bill of Rights: The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> 1-31 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1981).
McGoldrick, "The Significance of the ICCPR in International Law" in <u>The Human</u> Rights Committee: Its Role in the Development of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991) 20-22.
September 9 (1 hour): The Human Rights Committee
Readings:
First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (see pages 10 & 11)
McGoldrick, "The Human Rights Committee" in <u>The Human Rights Committee</u> : <u>Its Role in the Development of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991) 44-55.
Higgins, "Opinion: Ten Years on the U.N. Human Rights Committee, Some Thoughts Upon Parting" (1996) 6 E.H.R.L.R. 570-582.
State Reports:
McGoldrick, "The Submission of Reports" in <u>The Human Rights Committee: Its Role in the Development of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991) 71-74.
Individual Petition:
Kindler v. Canada, (U.N. Human Rights Committee, Geneva, New York, 1993), 307-316.
Form for petitions to the Human Rights Committee

Sept. 10 (2 hours): State Responsibility and the ICCPR

Obligations:

Humanitarian Norms as Customary Law (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989) 182-188
Nowak, "Article 2: Domestic Implementation and Prohibition of Discrimination" in U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: CCPR Commentary (Germany: N.P. Engel, 1993) 26-29; 36-65.
Limitations:
Kiss, "Permissible Limitations on Rights", in Henkin (ed.), <u>The International Bill of Rights: The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> 290-310 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1981).
Text of General Comment 24 (Reservations) (52) (1994) of the Human Rights Committee (7 pages)
Read articles 2 and 4 of the ICCPR and substantive rights language of the other articles.
September 11 (1 hour): State Responsibility and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ("ICESCR")
Alston, "Out of the Abyss: The Challenges Confronting the New U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (1987) 9 Hum. Rts. Q. (excerpt - 351-362)
"Limburg Principles on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" 9 Hum. Rts. Q. 122-135
"The Maastricht Guidelines on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights", (1997) forthcoming Hum. Rts. Q. (13 pages)
Goodwin-Gill, "Obligations of Conduct and Result" in Alston and Tomasevski (eds.), The Right to Food (Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1984) 111-118
Review articles 2, 4, 5 of the ICESCR and the obligations language of the other substantive articles (articles 1, 3, 6-15).

(Adele Dion, Director, Human Rights Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Professor Martin Scheinin, Department of Public Law, University of Helsinki and member of the Human Rights Committee, on sabbatical at the Faculty of Law for the 1997-98 academic year)
Schacter, "The Obligation to Implement the Covenant in Domestic Law" in Henkin (ed.), The International Bill of Rights: The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 311-331 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1981)
Craven, The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: A Perspective on its Development (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995) 27-29
Canada, "The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Fourth Report of Canada Covering the Period January 1990-December 1994", Introduction 1-4 and Article 27, Religious, Cultural and Linguistic Rights 56-60.
Scheinin, "General Introduction" 11-26 in Scheinin (ed.), <u>International Human Rights</u> <u>Norms in the Nordic and Baltic Countries</u> (Netherlands: Kluwer Law International, 1996)
Individual Petition:
Lovelace v. Canada U.N. Doc. A/36/40 (1981) edited excerpts and discussion of Canada's response in Newman and Weissbrodt, International Human Rights (USA: Anderson Publishing, 1990) 75-83.
September 15 (1 hour): The Rights Debate: Linking Civil and Political and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
McGoldrick "One Covenant or Two" in <u>The Human Rights Committee: Its Role in the Development of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</u> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991) 11-12.
Scott, "The Interdependence and Permeability of Human Rights Norms: Towards a Partial Fusion of the International Covenants on Human Rights" 27 Osgoode Hall L.J. 769-878, read only 771-772 (Introduction), 778-790 (The Concept of Interdependence), 791-814 (The Reasons for Separate Instruments).
Cranston, "Human Rights, Real and Supposed", in Raphael (ed.), Political Theory and the Rights of Man (Bloomington, 1967) 43-47.
van Hoof, "The Legal Nature of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: a Rebuttal of Some Traditional Views" in Alston and Tomasevski (eds.), <u>The Right to Food</u> (Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1984) 97-118.

September 12 (2 hours): Domestic Implementation

September 16 (1 hour): Interdependence and Permeability of Human Rights Norms (Craig Scott)
Hints of Interdependence and Permeability
Scott, "The Interdependence and Permeability of Human Rights Norms: Towards a Partial Fusion of the International Covenants on Human Rights" 27 Osgoode Hall L.J. 769-878, read only 850-859 (Article 26) and 875-878 (Article 6) (see page 171).
Justiciability and Concrete Examples from the Council of Europe System
Scott and Macklem, "Constitutional Ropes of Sand or Justiciable Guarantees? Social Rights in a Future South African Constitution" (1992) 141 U. Pa. Law Rev. excerpts from 2-3, 38-42, 48-55, 71, 98-108.
Migrant Workers: The Interaction of the Rights to Equality, Family Reunion and Housing
Directorate of Human Rights/Council of Europe, <u>The Family: Organization and Protection Within the European Social Charter</u> (1995) excerpts from 66-67, 30-40, 45-46.
The Possibilities of Holistic Analysis in the Context of Women's Rights
Cook, Women's Health and Human Rights (Geneva: WHO, 1994) (excerpt p. 19)265
Scott and Macklem, "Constitutional Ropes of Sand or Justiciable Guarantees? Social Rights in a Future South African Constitution" (1992) 141 U. Pa. Law Rev. excerpts from 32-35.
Open Door Counselling and Dublin Well Women v. Ireland (1982) 15 E.H.R.R. 244 headnote plus paras. 26-28, 53-55, 59-77.
Article 3 of the European Convention as a Port of Permeability? Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Social and Economic Hardship
Cassese, "Can the Notion of Inhuman and Degrading Treatment be Applied to Socio-Economic Conditions?" (1991) 2 Eur. J. Int'l Law 141-145
D v. United Kingdom, Eur. Ct. H.R., Unpublished Judgment of 2 May 1997 headnote

plus excerpts at paras. 39-59.

Would the Idea of Interdependence Assist in a Human Rights Analysis of Child Labour?

September 17 (2 hours) and September 18 (1 hour): Minority and Group Rights
Nowak, "Article 27: Protection of Minorities" in <u>U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political</u> Rights: CCPR Commentary (Germany: N.P. Engel, 1993) 480-505
Case Study: Indigenous Peoples
Anaya "Indigenous Rights Norms in Contemporary International Law" (1991) 8(2) Arizona J. of Int'l and Comparative L. 1-39
McGoldrick, "Canadian Indians, Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Committee" (1991) 40 Int'l and Comparative L. Q. 658-669
Individual Petitions:
Lansman et al. v. Finland (Communication to ICCPR, views adopted 30 October 1996) CCPR/C/58/D/671/1995 (16 pages)
Anaya (Counsel of Record), "Petition by the Mayagna Indian Community at Awas Tingni and Jaime Castillo Felippe against Nicaragua" Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Organization of American States (Oct. 2, 1995) (29 pages)
September 19 (2 hours): Nondiscrimination Norms under the Two Covenants and the Rights of Women
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, concentrating on articles 1-5 and 28.
Cook, "Women's International Human Rights Law: The Way Forward" in Cook (ed), <u>Human Rights of Women: National and International Perspectives</u> (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994) 3-36.
Coomaraswamy, "To Bellow Like a Cow: Women, Ethnicity and the Discourse of Rights" in Cook (ed), <u>Human Rights of Women: National and International Perspectives</u> (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994) 39-57
Hossain, "Equality in the Home: Women's Rights and Personal Laws in South Asia" in Cook (ed), <u>Human Rights of Women: National and International Perspectives</u> (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994) 465-494.

Evaluation: Based upon one short (10-12 pages) reflective paper to be graded on an Honours/Pass/Fail basis, due on November 14, 1997.

Suggestions for the Reflective Paper:

You may wish to take a fact situation, such as the "Nightmare in Switzerland" fact situation involving Nigerian human rights activist Clement Nwanko found at the end of this casebook, and turn it into a legal brief along the lines of Anaya's "Petition by the Mayagna Indian Community" discussed on September 17 & 18. Other ideas for the reflective paper will be discussed in class.